

CHAPTER 6 - BLANKET WAGE DETERMINATIONS

6-1. General. The SCA Blanket Wage Determination Pilot Test Program was initiated in 1985 to test the development of a more efficient system for submission and processing of requests for WDs. Participation was initially limited to a few agencies. Evaluation of the initial experience indicates that these procedures maintain worker protections under the SCA while providing significant resource savings for both Federal procurement agencies and the DOL. The program has since been made available to all contracting agencies. The Department of the Army (DA) entered into an agreement with the DOL outlining the respective obligations of DA and the DOL. Under the Blanket wage determination procedure, the contracting office develops comprehensive annual procurement plans for service contracts in given geographic "blanket" areas. Based on those plans, each participating procurement agency submits a single SF 98 and related worksheet covering service contracts for a particular blanket area where services are to be performed. The DOL then issues Blanket wage determinations covering the different types of services and classifications listed on the SF 98 request and worksheet. The Blanket wage determinations issued apply to solicitations and subsequently awarded contracts for the previously identified services during a specified blanket year period (generally, but not exclusively 12 months), thereby eliminating the need for agencies to request a separate wage determination for each service contract. It should be noted, however, that with the emergence of the WDOL program, the DOL has indicated its intention to gradually scale back its SCA Blanket WD program.

6-2. Contracting Agency Blanket Wage Determination Program Requirements.

a. The DOL has advised that in order for an agency to participate in the Blanket program procurement agencies must undertake the following measures:

- (1) designate national and regional project coordinators;
- (2) facilitate the training of key agency staff;
- (3) develop and submit properly completed SF 98s and blanket worksheets;
- (4) utilize the conformance procedure, if applicable; and
- (5) observe restrictions on the use of Blanket wage determinations.

b. For purposes of the Blanket wage determinations, the Office of the Chief Counsel, CECC-C, will serve as the national coordinator and it is suggested that each interested MSC designate a blanket coordinator who will in turn be responsible for the training of those ordinarily tasked with the SCA wage request responsibility. Those offices wishing to develop Blanket Request proposals should coordinate with CECC-C. Training outlines and materials (including a detailed action plan for the development and submission of a Blanket wage determination request) are available through that office.

c. DOL has determined that there are four major procurement actions that are ineligible for Blanket wage determination participation. For the following service contracts, contracting officers are to continue to submit individual SF 98's:

(1) The service employees of a predecessor (incumbent) contractor are subject to a collective-bargaining agreement (CBA), or service employees, although not covered by the CBA, were subject to the minimum rates and fringe benefits of a predecessor's contract pursuant to section 4{c} of the Act.

(2) The locality where the contract services will be performed is unknown (i.e., outside of the blanket area being requested).

(3) Federal employees may be displaced (i.e., A-76).

(4) There will be consolidations or re-configurations of existing contracts.

d. It should also be stressed that for participating offices there are significant start-up requirements for this program. The experience of the participating pilot project agencies has been that the initial investment in time and resources resulted in more expeditious procurement during the blanket year. Subsequent annual requests will also be more easily facilitated due to the initial compilation and organization of material.